

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES (CDSS)  
RESOURCE FAMILY APPROVAL (RFA)  
STATEWIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) WEBINAR NOTES

June 2, 2021  
Time: 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm  
WebEx<sup>1</sup>

## Updates

- The Family Urgent Response System (FURS) is up and running in 19 counties with a statewide rollout effective July 1, 2021. The FURS is a coordinated statewide, regional, and county-level system designed to provide collaborative and timely state-level phone-based response and county-level in-home, in-person mobile response during situations of instability, to preserve the relationship of the caregiver and the child or youth. Contact information and additional resources can be found on the statewide [FURS hub website](#). Any questions regarding FURS should be sent to [FURS@dss.ca.gov](mailto:FURS@dss.ca.gov).
- Keep connected with Resource Families (RF). Despite the change from an annual update to a biennial basis (every other year), RFA workers are encouraged to maintain contact with RFs. An email or a phone call checking in creates connections between the family and the agency and can also serve as a method to convey information about services and supports available to the RF.
- Emergency Caregiver (EC) Funding for fiscal year (FY) 2021-22 is currently capped at 90 days. However, the May Revise of the budget proposes to extend the current FY provisions (120 days, and up to 365 days for good cause). An All County Letter (ACL) will be issued once the budget is finalized.
- Capacity Determination and Placement. A RF with placements at their maximum designated capacity may not necessarily prohibit the placement of an additional child or youth. If the county deems the placement as safe and appropriate and the RF has the ability to meet the needs of the current children as well as the potential child or youth to be placed, the county may make the placement and update the RFA certificate ([RFA 05A](#) or county equivalent) to reflect a new capacity. ([Written Directives](#) (WD), Section 10-04). In instances where the family's approval is child specific, the county is required to initiate an approval update within five business days of the placement.

County TA Question	CDSS Response	Action Item
1) Can a RF request to extend their inactive status beyond the two year limitation?	The <a href="#">WDs</a> , Version 7, section 10-02(d) specifies that an inactive status may not exceed a two year period.	No.

<sup>1</sup> Please contact your assigned CDSS RFA liaison or the CDSS RFA policy mailbox, [RFA@dss.ca.gov](mailto:RFA@dss.ca.gov), for the link.

County TA Question	CDSS Response	Action Item
2) Can a RF request to be placed on Inactive Status more than one time?	Yes. The Inactive Status is a voluntary, family-driven, decision based upon family need and circumstances. There is no limit to the number of times a RF can request to be placed on Inactive Status.	No.
3) Can a county make a placement with a RF on Inactive Status?	Yes, however, the county is required to initiate a home and safety assessment within five calendar days of the placement and complete the update within 30 calendar days of the placement, unless good cause exists. ( <a href="#">WD</a> , section 10-02)	No.
4) Is the RF required to complete the annual training hours while placed on Inactive Status?	No. As defined in <a href="#">WD</a> , Section 3-01(a)(49), a RF placed on Inactive Status...”is not subject to the requirements in Article 11 or Article 11.1, if applicable...” By definition, this includes Section 11-19: Annual and Other Training. However, part of the update to terminate the RF’s Inactive Status, requires the county to review the RF’s training hours to identify any training that are overdue from the period prior to the RF going on Inactive Status.	No.
5) Has the Level of Care Determination Rate Protocol (LOCP) been fully implemented?  Is the LOCP retroactive back to date of placement?	Yes, the LOCP was fully implemented as specified in <a href="#">ACL 21-17</a> , effective April 1, 2021. This means that a county may now conduct a LOCP process for home based family care placements.  Not necessarily. Please refer to <a href="#">ACL 21-17</a> under the section entitled “Rate Effective Dates and Scoring the LOCP” for guidance. Additional questions may be submitted to the <a href="mailto:LOC@dss.ca.gov">LOC@dss.ca.gov</a> mailbox.	No.
6) Does the Out of County (OOC) Protocol specify the time frame in which a county is required to respond to an emergency placement request from another county?	The OOC Protocol provides that that the host county shall respond within two business days. Any concerns or questions around specific provisions of the OOC should be elevated to county RFA management for discussion at the monthly County Welfare Director’s Association (CWDA) meeting. The OOC Protocol is maintained by CWDA and posted on their website.	No.
7) Can a room used for other purposes be converted into a bedroom for a dependent child or youth?  Does this require a documented alternative plan (DAP)?	Possibly. Counties are required to assess bedroom configurations on a case-by-case basis, taking into consideration such factors as, but not limited to, the size of the room, the layout of the room, methods/materials used to convert the room into a bedroom, access to or through the room by individuals other than the dependent, privacy and personal rights, etc. In certain instances, the county may determine that it is appropriate and in the best interests of the youth to be placed with the RF who is using a converted room as a bedroom.  No, this bedroom configuration does not fall under the provisions of a DAP.	No.

County TA Question	CDSS Response	Action Item
8) Can a RF displace a child from their bed and permit a temporary visitor to use the child's bed?	The WD's require each child to have their own bed; however, the county and the placement worker have the discretion to assess specific instances, on a case-by-case basis.	No.
9) Is it permissible to document on the RFA approval certificate ( <a href="#">RFA 05A</a> or county equivalent) the "expiration date" of an approval?	No. For purposes of RFA, a family's approval does not expire. There are only three modes by which an approval is no longer valid: the family voluntarily surrenders their approval; the county rescinds the approval, or the approval is forfeited by operation of law. Counties should not be documenting an "expiration date" on a family's approval certificate. Despite a pending or delayed approval update, or a delay in completing the required annual training hours, etc., the approval remains in force and valid until one of the instances described above occurs.	No.
10) Does the re-determination of a RF's capacity require an in-person visit? Can the re-determination be conducted by other means? Video? Photos?	Neither the <a href="#">WDs</a> , nor the RFA statute, require that this particular assessment be conducted in person. There may be instances in which an in-person visit is not necessary, and the county has the discretion to determine, on a case-by-case basis, if the capacity assessment may be conducted through means other than an in-person visit by an RFA worker.	No.
11) When does EC Funding payment start when a child or youth is placed with an applicant on the basis of a compelling reason?	Once the components of the compelling reason provisions are finalized (see <a href="#">WD</a> , 4-09(b)), and an application for the Emergency Assistance (EA) program has been submitted the county is authorized to place the dependent and initiate the EC payments. Please refer to <a href="#">ACL 20-93</a> for additional guidance.	No.
12) Is a caregiver with placement (prior to approval) of a child/youth with special health care needs eligible to receive the Static Rate or ISFC rate in addition to the EC Funding pursuant to <a href="#">Welfare &amp; Institutions Code (WIC) 11461.36</a> ?	No. Until the caregiver is approved as a Resource Family, they are only eligible for EC Funding payments (equal to the basic level foster care rate) and cannot receive retroactive Static/ISFC rates. Additionally, the Specialized Care Rate cannot be applied prior to approval as a RF.	No.
13) If a RF, with an update coming due, submits a Portability Application to a different agency, are both	Best practice is for both agencies to collaborate in order to avoid duplication and complete the applicable update in a coordinated, efficient, and family-friendly manner.	No.

County TA Question	CDSS Response	Action Item
agencies required to complete an update?		
14) How does the county enter the transfer of a RF's approval to another county in the Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS)?	Please refer to <a href="#">ACL 20-14</a> that details the updated RFA-related CWS/CMS data entry instructions.	No.

**Next Webinar: August 4, 2021 at 1:30 pm.**